REMARKS

Reconsideration of the instant application is respectfully requested. The present amendment is responsive to the Office Action of March 15, 2006, in which claims 1-20 are presently pending. Of those, claim 20 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §101 as being directed to non-statutory subject matter, as indicated on pages 2-3 of the Office Action. With regard to the art of record, claims 1-17, 19 and 20 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent Application Publication 2004/0254922 by Vincent, III. (Applicants note the stated priority date of Vincent, as being based on provisional application 60/477,530 filed June 11, 2003, and hereby reserve the right to file an affidavit under 37 CFR 1.131) In addition, claim 18 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Vincent. For the following reasons, however, it is respectfully submitted that the application is now in condition for allowance.

As an initial matter, paragraphs [0009], [0017] and [0023] of the specification have been amended as set forth above to correct typographical errors discovered therein. With regard to the §101 rejection of claim 20, paragraph [0064] has been amended, as directed by the Examiner, to delete the term "data signal" as a possible embodiment of "computer program code." Accordingly, the issue of program code falling under non-statutory subject matter is rendered moot, and it is respectfully submitted that the §101 rejection of claim 20 has been overcome. Applicants therefore respectfully request the §101 rejection of claim 20 now be withdrawn.

With regard to the §102 and §103 rejections based on the Vincent publication, the term "service state data" has been replaced with the term --state data **of** a service-- (emphasis added) in claims 1-5, 8-12, 14, 16, 19 and 20 to more particularly point out that the generated state data claimed herein is in fact state data from a service itself. A service's state data is the dynamic snapshot of information (temporal or fixed) about a

service (time and spatial dependent), that the service would like to share with its clients. This is different from a repository of data and access methods on the repository. In real execution environments, the schema repository as taught by Vincent would expose a Web service which has its own state information maintained such as the data cache size, access protocol to be used, supported query languages and such. The claimed invention teaches the exposure of these specific service's state information to the clients.
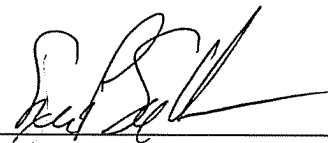
Support for this amendment is found at least in paragraph [0017] of the specification, as well as in Figures 1B and 1C, which plainly depict the state data 22 being state data of a service 20 (e.g., a Web service). Therefore, so as to distinguish between any kind of state data (e.g., such as data simply stored in a repository), the claims now indicate that the generated state data is that of a service.

In contrast, Vincent (see FIG. 1) merely teaches a repository, as indicated by the Examiner, whose contents may be viewed and indexed. However, simply because schema in the schema repository 120 are located as web resources, this is not the same as teaching the generation of state data of a service (e.g., a web service) itself. As such, Vincent fails to teach each and every element of the independent claims and therefore cannot anticipate any of claims 1-20. Furthermore, the Examiner's statement concerning the obviousness of using an eclipse plug in view of Vincent (in rejecting claim 18) does not provide this missing element. Thus, the present amendment also overcomes the §103 rejection of claim 18 and it is respectfully requested that the same be withdrawn.

10

For the above stated reasons, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is now in condition for allowance. No new matter has been entered and no additional fees are believed to be required. However, if any fees are due with respect to this Amendment, please charge them to Deposit Account No. 09-0463 maintained by Applicants' assignee.

Respectfully submitted,
LIANJUN AN, ET AL.

CANTOR COLBURN LLP
Applicants' Attorneys

By _____
Sean F. Sullivan
Registration No. 38,328
Customer No. 46429

Date: June 15, 2006
Address: 55 Griffin Road South, Bloomfield, CT 06002
Telephone: (860) 286-2929